

CLAIMS

1. A method of draining and venting the permeate gases from a flexible tubular pipe, especially one for
5 transporting hydrocarbons, said flexible tubular pipe comprising at least one internal pressure sheath (14) suitable for conveying said hydrocarbons, permeate gases contained in said hydrocarbons being liable to diffuse through the wall of said internal pressure
10 sheath (14), and comprising an external sheath (24) and one or more reinforcing plies (16, 18, 20) located in an annular region (23) lying between said external sheath (24) and said internal pressure sheath (14), said annular region (23) having, along said reinforcing
15 plies, flow paths along which said permeate gases can flow toward venting means,
characterized in that an entrainment gas is injected under pressure into said annular region (23), along said flow paths, in order to force said permeate gases
20 to flow along said flow paths toward said venting means and in that said venting means are suitable for venting said permeate gases out of said annular region (23) and toward the outside of said flexible tubular pipe.

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2. The method of draining and venting permeate gases as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said entrainment gas is injected into a plurality of injection regions spaced apart longitudinally in said
30 annular region of said flexible tubular pipe.

3. The method of draining and venting permeate gases as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said entrainment gas is injected at one of the ends of said
35 flexible tubular pipe.

4. The method of draining and venting permeate gases as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized

in that a nitrogen-containing gas is injected.

5. The method of draining and venting permeate gases as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the flow
5 is created by sucking said permeate gases out from at least one suction region inside said annular region in order to force said permeate gases to flow.

6. A flexible tubular pipe for transporting
10 hydrocarbons, comprising at least one internal pressure sheath (14) suitable for conveying said hydrocarbons, permeate gases contained in said hydrocarbons being liable to diffuse through the wall of said internal pressure sheath (14), and comprising an external sheath
15 (24) and one or more reinforcing plies (16, 18, 20) located in an annular region (23) lying between said external sheath (24) and said internal pressure sheath (14), said annular region (23) having, along said reinforcing plies, flow paths along which said permeate
20 gases can flow toward venting means, characterized in that it includes at least one supply line emerging in said annular region (23) for supplying pressurized entrainment gas in order to force said permeate gases in said annular region to flow along
25 said flow paths toward said venting means and in that said venting means are suitable for venting said permeate gases out of said annular region (23) and toward the outside of said flexible tubular pipe.

7. The flexible tubular pipe as claimed in claim 7,
30 characterized in that said supply line (22, 25, 32, 34, 36) lying in the annular region has drilled injection holes (38, 40) spaced apart so as to form a plurality of injection regions spaced longitudinally along said
35 flexible tubular pipe.

8. The flexible tubular pipe as claimed in claim 6 or 7, characterized in that said means for forcing said permeate gases to flow include a pressurized-nitrogen

supply connected to the supply line.

9. The flexible tubular pipe as claimed in claim 6,
characterized in that said means for forcing said
5 permeate gases to diffuse include a suction pump for
sucking said permeate gases into said flow paths in at
least one suction region of said annular region.

10. The flexible tubular pipe as claimed in any one of
10 claims 1 to 9, characterized in that said venting means
consist of differential valves suitable for venting the
gases by the pressure difference between said annular
region and the outside.